



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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U.K. NATIVE ARRESTED AND INDICTED FOR VIOLATING EMBARGO ON IRAN

-- Suspect Arrested in Poland Earlier This Month; Extradition to the U.S. Sought --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein; Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Michael J. Garcia; and Department of Commerce Acting Assistant Secretary Wendy L. Wysong announced today that a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia returned a 5-count indictment yesterday against **Ali Asghar Manzarpour**, 43, of Brighton, United Kingdom, charging him with violating the International Emergency Economic Powers (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. Section 1701-1706, and the Iranian Transaction Regulations (ITR), 50 C.F.R. Part 560.

The indictment follows Manzarpour's arrest by Polish authorities in Warsaw, Poland, on February 17, 2005, at the request of the U.S. government. The Polish authorities are detaining Manzarpour pending a formal extradition request from the United States. If convicted of the charges, Manzarpour faces a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine under the statute and a likely prison sentence of 78 to 97 months under the federal sentencing guidelines.

"In the post 9/11 world, keeping sensitive U.S. technology out of the wrong hands has never been more important. I am especially proud of the ICE agents in this country and overseas who helped Polish authorities track down this individual," said ICE Assistant Secretary Garcia.

U.S. Attorney Wainstein stated, "Insuring compliance with laws and regulations controlling technology transfer promotes our national security and is a critical component of the Department's anti-terrorism strategy. This Office and the Department of Justice will continue to pursue and prosecute those who seek personal gain by violating these laws and exporting sensitive technologies to unworthy recipients."

Under the ITR, all exports to Iran of U.S. origin commodities require an export license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) of the Department of Treasury. It is also unlawful to ship U.S. origin products to a third country and then re-export them to Iran without the necessary authorization from OFAC. These prohibitions have been in place since 1995.

According to the indictment, in 1996, Manzarpour submitted to an interview with representatives of Her Majesty’s Customs and Excise in the United Kingdom. During the interview, Manzarpour admitted extensive knowledge of the embargo against exporting commodities, directly or indirectly, from the U.S. to Iran.

The indictment alleges that in April and May 2004, Manzarpour exported an experimental aircraft, the Berkut 360 single engine plane, from the United States to the United Kingdom. Once the airplane arrived in the United Kingdom, Manzarpour re-booked it for shipment to Iran. He had not obtained a license from OFAC for the re-export to Iran.

Agents from the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Commerce Office of Export Enforcement (“OEE”) learned that the plane was in England, en route to Iran, and ordered the shipping company to return it to the United States, where it was later seized.

The indictment further alleges that, on four separate occasions during 2000 and 2001, Manzarpour obtained various electrical components from companies in the United States and transshipped them to Iran through Austria. Manzarpour did not acquire a license from OFAC for any of these shipments.

In announcing today’s indictment, U.S. Attorney Wainstein, Assistant Secretary Garcia, and Acting Assistant Secretary Wysong praised the excellent investigative work of ICE Special Agent Mark Knoblock and OEE Special Agent Richard Greene.

They also commended Trial Attorney Andrea Tisi of the Department of Justice’s Office of International Affairs for her work with the Polish Government in securing Manzarpour’s arrest. Last, they thanked United States Attorneys Jonathan Malis and Jay Bratt, who are prosecuting the case

An indictment is merely a formal way of bringing charges against an individual. All persons charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.